

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 00063 071056Z

53

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 USIA-06

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R 070912Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7754

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 0063

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS KS

SUBJECT: CHURCH PROTESTS RESUME WITH MISSIONARY PARTICIPATION

1. AFTER BRIEF HOLIDAY RESPITE, ANTI-GOVT PROTESTS BY CHURCH GROUPS HAVE RESUMED, WITH CONSIDERABLE PARTICIPATION BY FOREIGN MISSIONARIES.
2. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LEADERS MET ON JAN 6 AT CHRISTIAN HALL AND ISSUED DECLARATION DEPLORING DEPORTATION OF REV. OGLE AND REQUESTING HE BE ALLOWED TO RETURN ASSERTING THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE INHERENT IN BODY POLITICS AND GOVERNMENTS VIOLATING THEM CANNOT BE CONSIDERED LEGITIMATE. DECLARATION ALSO PROCLAIMED THAT ONLY GENUINE DEMOCRACY COMPATIBLE WITH CHRISTIANITY AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM. MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY GUESTS FROM OTHER CHURCHES. INCLUDING SOME 20 FOREIGN MISSIONARIES.
3. GROUP OF 60 FOREIGN MISSIONARIES MOSTLY AMERICANS AND PREDOMINANTLY CATHOLICS, INCLUDING BISHOP MC NAUGHTON, SENT LETTER OF APPEAL TO PRESIDENT PARK ON JANUARY 1 SUPPORTING OGEL'S CLAIM THAT PEOPLE'S REVOLUTION PARTY PRISONERS HAD BEEN

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 00063 071056Z

UNJUSTLY TRIED AND CONVICTED AND DEMANDING

CIVILIAN TRIALS FOR THEM. MANY OF SIGNERS BELONG
TO GROUP FORMERLY HEADED BY GEORGE OGLE.

4. WITH REGARD TO ROKG INTENTION TOWARD FOREIGN
MISSIONARIES, FATHER NOEL RYAN, AN IRISH COLUMBAN
PRIEST REPORTED TO EMBOFF THAT AT A LUNCHEON ON
DEC 30 WITH MINISTER OF JUSTICE HWANG SAN-TOK,
HE WAS TOLD THAT ROKG WOULD BASE ANY FUTURE DEPORTA-
TIONS ON CHARGES OF CURRENCY VIOLATIONS OR SIMILAR
ORDINARY CRIMES RATHER THAN ON ALLEGATIONS OF
IMPROPER POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. PURPOSE, ACCORDING
TO HWANG, WOULD BE TO TRY TO AVOID BAD
PUBLICITY THAT HAD BEEN ENGENDERED BY OGLE CASE.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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